

TOKEN TOPICS

OF THE CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF TRANSPORTATION TOKEN COLLECTORS

No. 27

Robert W. Kubach, Editor

Jan., 1971

JANUARY 17th MEETING HAPPY NEW YEAR ! The first CATTIC meeting of the new year will be on Sunday afternoon, Jan. 17th, from 2:00 to 4:30 PM in the home of Elaine Willahan, 516 West 99th Street, Los Angeles 90044. It's close to the Harbor Freeway (Century Blvd. off-ramp) so bundle up the tokens and head for Elaine's home on the 17th. Note that this the 3rd Sunday in Jan.

DUES ARE DUE - DUES ARE DUE - DUES ARE DUE - DUES ARE DUE - \$1

1971 DUES The dues for 1971 are now due. They are still only \$1. Plan to attend the Jan. meeting give Elaine a buck for 1971. If you are not able to attend the Jan. meeting, please mail your dollar to Elaine Willahan, 516 W. 99th Stree, Los Angeles 90044.

\$1 - DUES ARE DUE - DUES ARE DUE - DUES ARE DUE - DUES ARE DUE

ELECTION OF OFFICERS It is that time of the year again. We will elect officers for the year 1971. I hope that we will be able to get some of the members that have not held an office to accept a nomination for an office. I have served two terms as president and do not care to serve a third term.

NOVEMBER MEETING The November meeting was a trip to the Orange Empire Trolley Museum at Perris, Calif. I was not able to go to Perris for the meeting, so, thanks to Elaine for the notes on the meeting. Only nine were able to make the trip. They enjoyed riding on a trolley car again. I am sure that all that were there had at least one ride. Those making the trip were Mr. & Mrs. Amos House, Mr. & Mrs. F. Gordon Smith, Mr. & Mrs. Jim Wassel, Andy Crusen, William Gallagher, and Elaine Willahan.

Norm Sherman was unable to attend the November meeting. He and Ella were vacationing in Hawaii. Get any new tokens, Norm?. Hope to see you at the January meeting.

I wish to take this opportunity to wish one and all a very Happy & Prosperous New Year. May you add many new tokens to your collection.

REMEMBER... It's the third Sunday this time.

HIGH-SPEED DETECTIVE JOB:

Unidentified tokens can add quite a bit of spice to the pleasures of collecting. Sometimes these items stay on the "maverick" list for months or even years, but occasionally they are on and off that list with the speed of a jet plane. Our little story here definitely falls into the latter category.

Most CATTG members in Southern California received their November "Fare Box" just a few days before Christmas. In the usual Catalogue Supplement of new discoveries, Ralph Freiberg listed Unidentified #110, the Blue & White Bus Line, as reported from Illinois by W. G. Garrison. In his comments Ralph said, "... may well be in use right now, but I have no idea where".

One member who did have an idea was our club president Bob Kubach. As soon as he saw the listing, he called Bob Ritterband and commented that there was a Blue & White outfit in the southern sections of Los Angeles. Ritterband pointed out that this was territory familiar to Elaine Willahan, and offered to pass the suggestion along. Within an hour after she had been given the tip, Elaine was back home again with a handful of the tokens, and a complete story for this issue of "Token Topics".

Unidentified #110 does indeed originate with Blue & White Bus Lines, of 210 E. 121st Street, Los Angeles 90061, less than two miles from Elaine's home. (Note that "Lines" is plural, rather than as printed in the "Fare Box".) Elaine had spoken to Mr. Ivan McCargo, a company official, who said they had been in business since the middle of 1968, and now operated 22 buses. The company works on an exact fare plan, with locked boxes, and sells their tokens in little packages of five for a dollar.

Blue & White is owned and operated solely by black people, whose aim is to serve south central L.A. areas, such as the Watts district, now without enough city routes. The Imperial Housing project, where there are at least 2200 residents without transportation, is the next area the company intends to add to its service.

Funds for this still-new enterprise were supplied by the National Economic Growth and Reconstruction Organization, whose initials spell NEGRO. Under the leadership of Dr. Thomas W. Matthew, a prominent neuro-surgeon of New York City, the financial backers strive to provide self-help possibilities to many emerging black companies. In this case, Blue & White was assisted in purchasing the veteran Atkinson Transportation Co., of Los Angeles, who had earlier acquired the Landier Transit lines in Watts, when that district was a separate city. Blue & White has also purchased and continues to operate the South L.A. Transportation Co., for charter work only.

Conclusions: #1) If you are worrying about any other unidentified mavericks, better check now with Kubach and Willahan. Maybe they can solve your problems in a flash! #2) Remember that you will always get the newest news in your "Token Topics".

(RMR)

NEW FEATURE:

Collectors of merchants tokens and trade checks are sure to be interested in a new column just being started in the weekly "Coin World". Under the heading "American Token Finder", columnist Russell Rulau will offer a state-by-state index of these pieces, for research and reference help to such hobbyists. Although Rulau is a member of AVA, transportation tokens will not be listed, because of the excellence of our fine Catalogues by Atwood and Smith. ~~Thomas~~

The column will probably not be printed each week, but definitely will continue until all 50 states and the U.S. possessions have been covered. Better subscribe now if you do not already read this eminent journal.

(RMR)

TOKEN TOPICS

March, 1971
Issue #28

of the
CALIFORNIA ASSN. of TRANSPORTATION TOKEN COLLECTORS

ROBERT RITTERBAND
Editor

85th MEETING: The 85th consecutive meeting of CATTC will be hosted by Elaine Willahan on Sunday afternoon, March 21st, in her home at 516 W. 99th Street, Los Angeles. The first arrivals will show up around 1:30, and from then until 5:00 token swapping will go on like mad. (Notice that this session, like all others for '71, will be on the third Sunday of the month. It's an experiment voted in by those at the opening meet this year; let's see how we all like the plan.) By now most everyone knows how to find our secretary's house... if not, call her at 755-2708 or call the president at 938-4504, for full details.

Further Sunday events this year, as set by your Executive Board, will probably be:

- May 16 Santa Fe Coach Yards, Los Angeles, aboard a private car.
- July 18 In the home and garden of Edrick Miller, Costa Mesa.
- Sep. 19 Lomita Railroad Museum, plus a nearby park for a picnic.
- Nov. 21 At the home of president Robert Ritterband, Los Angeles.

Now you know, so mark your calendar ahead... and be there every time!

JUST FOR THE RECORD: Possibly you did not receive a copy of our interim "State of the Union" message, so we repeat the important facts here. The January meeting was a real whopper, with no less than 22 members on hand, plus a half-dozen family guests. In the elections, Robert Ritterband was chosen president (and editor), with James Wassel as vice-president. Ritterband previously served two one-year terms in 1963 and '64, and then again in 1967 and '68. Re-elected as secretary and treasurer were Elaine Willahan and Andrew Crusen, while Robert Kubach joins our Executive Board as immediate past prez.

Among business items were two proposals offered for further study: The possible purchase of a coin camera for alternate free use among our members to photograph their prize token possessions, and the possibility of dropping the word "Transportation" from our club name to better indicate the scope of our members' activities.

A mail caucus among all members has been launched on these two subjects, and a further decision will be called for at the March meeting. At the time of this writing there are 24 ballots now received, with definite trends showing on each question. Be at the March session if you possibly can, but if not then be sure to send in your opinions promptly so that we all can vote wisely.

WE REACH 100: Three new members have been welcomed into our association already this year. At the January gathering you had the chance to meet Steve Lipshie of Van Nuys (member #98), and Lois Harencame of Whittier (#99). Then the centennial number went to Raymond Weamer of Mar Vista, who signed in with Elaine/W by mail. Here's a hope that we can meet him in person at the club real soon.

Our collectors' organization was started in mid-'57 by four vecturists: Roland Atwood, Edward Cutler, Edrick Miller and Kenneth Smith. (Your current president holds membership #5.) Wonder if any of those four realized then that one day we would reach the century mark? Once a membership number is assigned to an individual in this club, it is never re-issued. It would be good if we could report that all one hundred members are still on the active list, but sadly we cannot. A few have fallen from the pleasures of collecting, and too many have been called to their final rest. And so, who do you know that would like to become our #101?

JIM WASSELL wants us all to remember that "conscience" is the small inner voice which tells you the Internal Revenue Service just might audit your tax return next month!

SOME WELCOMES: In addition to greeting a pair of new members at our January session, it was a pleasure to say "hello" again to a couple of old-timers. In town for the weekend was Ralph Freiberg of San Francisco, who gave all of us some insights into his labors as AVA's New Issues chairman. The other fellow was Edrick Miller, former club president, who has been absent for quite a few months while writing and publishing his new history on the city of Costa Mesa. Your editor has now read this informative work and can recommend it to any Orange County history buffs in our fold.

TWICE IN A ROW: One reason we are repeating this month at Elaine's home is to help her celebrate the end of many weeks of jury duty in the L.A. Municipal Court. Your editor has looked up the words in his left-handed dictionary, and found:

JURY: A group of twelve men and women selected to decide which of the contestants has the best lawyer.

DUTY: Something that most persons look forward to with distaste, perform with reluctance, and then brag about forever after.

A RECOVERY: Friends of Eddie Cutler will be happy to know that he is making a nice recuperation now from his recent hospital stay for a heart condition. We do not have full details, but are sure he would be glad to hear from you... just any time.

NEW TOKEN: There will be a new fare token for a certain Southern California town at about the middle of this month. We have promised John Nicolosi not to reveal details too early, so he can first have time to round up a goodly batch for the AVA New Issues Service. By the time of the March meeting we expect to have a few copies on hand for distribution, which is just one more reason for being there. Credit Steve Lipshie for the advance tip on this new venture, with your editor doing the necessary follow-up.

HO/HO/HO! Two kids were playing cowboy recently, when one of them swaggered up to a big empty packing case marked "Red-Eye Saloon," pounded on the bar and shouted, "Gimme a shot of rye." His much younger pal was not about to be outdone. Pulling his toy gun from its holster, he pounded on the bar too. "Gimme a whole wheat," he growled.

I-D BUTTONS: Elaine and Andy must have guessed there would be a big turnout at our January meeting. Using some of Elaine's surplus political advertising buttons, Andy gave them a spray coating of flat white paint. Final result: Some nice name tags for all to wear, so that no one could claim he didn't know everyone else. Our thanks!

TIME REALLY FLIES: Maybe you haven't noticed, but our newest Atwood's Catalogue is already fifteen months old. Plenty of changes in that time, you know, and soon there will be a printed supplement. Our good member, Jack Smith of New Palestine, Indiana, is also a member of the North East Vecturists. In their behalf he has volunteered to compile and type an Atwood supplement. Copies will be distributed soon to all NEVA members without charge, or sold to other collectors at a nominal price. Great!

FOR SPECIALTY COLLECTORS: Another good member of our club is Ed McClung, head of the PANart Company in North Hollywood. This outfit is a leader in the manufacture and distribution of philatelic-numismatic covers, which combine coins or medals with stamped envelopes for "First Day-First Issue" pieces. Number PNC-19 in their series is our own AVA Dallas Convention token, encased in a window envelope and postmarked in Dallas on the day of that Waxahachie Mule Car ride last August. Only 250 envelopes were prepared this way, and Ed reports they are moving fast at \$5.50 each. Get in touch with him quickly if you want one of these unusual items for your collection.

MAYBE A TREND? A number of our members attended the annual NASC coin show here again in February. Several who did, and who are also interested in medals, noticed the start of a possible new trend. Last year's first NASC souvenir medal featured a picture of L.A.'s famed (but retired) Angels Flight Railway. The current issue carries a frontal view of the Union Passenger Terminal. So maybe next year it could be the Theme Building at the International Airport, or maybe just a bird's-eye view of a fleet of RTD buses. Who says that medalists aren't transportation minded?

ANOTHER ONE: One good thing about numismatic shows- If you happen to miss one, there is always another on the way. This coming Sunday, March 12th, is the date set for the sixth annual Verdugo Hills coin show, running all day at the Masonic Hall in Tujunga. As in the past, our old-time members Walter Fritzsche and Edward Tarantino will be active in the presentation of this event, which features bourse tables, exhibits and door prizes. Will there be tokens and medals for collectors? Probably. (One of these days your editor is going to write a song, with the refrain, "You'll never know unless you go; tokens are wherever you find them!")

By the way, if you have never stopped in to look over Walt and Ed's coin store on Foothill Blvd. in Tujunga, you're missing out on a good thing. It's a well stocked, very handsome layout... and of course they would both be glad to greet you.

SALES TAX TOKENS: Word was received recently from member Ernie Altvater of Laverne, Calif., telling of the formation of a new national group for collectors of sales tax tokens, coupons and receipts. The organization will be issuing a news letter, "Tax Token Talley", under the guidance of capable and knowledgeable writers. We understand that a number of vecturists have already extended their holdings into this side line. If you are interested also, get in touch with Ernie for more details, plus the names of their national leaders.

FROM TEXAS: At the same time our club is thinking of shortening its title, the Texas collectors have extended theirs. Thus the former TAVA has been reorganized into the TATAMCA, or "Texas Area Token and Medal Collectors Association". Their newsy bulletin is still "Token Talk", with Maurice Murdock continuing as editor. In the January issue a listing was started of every known Texas trade token, showing first the cities beginning with the letters A and B. Lists for C, D and E are due in April. These pages will be available to all collectors, under three plans. Members of their association (at \$2 per year) will receive the mimeographed pages as issued, or non-members can buy them at 25c per set. Those who want offset printed pages, with numerous illustrations, may buy them before long at about a dime a page, punched for three-ring binders. Any interested CATTC members should contact our president or secretary for more details.

B & W BUS: Here is more info on the Blue and White Bus Lines of Watts, our newest local token discovery. On February 15th the Los Angeles Times carried a brief story saying that B & W would begin at once to give free bus rides on certain lines now also being served by the Rapid Transit District. Dr. Thomas Matthew, a New York surgeon who heads the self-help group NEGRO, said the action became necessary after RTD had violated an earlier agreement to postpone starting its new Route 123 into southern Los Angeles.

How this action might affect the usage of Calif. 970-B we don't know yet. If they are now obsolete, it will have been a darn fast journey from discovery as a maverick token, identification, and then obsolescence, all within just three months. Time will tell!

JIM WASSEL also wants you to remember it's the little things that count... and three of them gives anyone an \$1875 income tax exemption.

OUR TRAVELER: Roland Atwood, AVA #1, is back in town again after a three-week "palms to pines" outing that carried him afar. First he flew from here to Atlanta, and continued from there to Miami by Greyhound. Then he boarded a F & O passenger liner for a cruise through the Caribbean islands, continuing on to the Panama Canal and up the Pacific Coast as far as (very cold!) Vancouver. Once again he took the bus and came home by way of Bend, Oregon, plus Sacramento, with several stopovers to acquire Sambo wooden nickels for his friends' collections. You can hear all about it, with envy, and maybe have a few of the nickels at our coming session.

SONGS, ANYONE? If ever you decide to become a bulletin editor, be sure to keep in touch with Mrs. Willahan. She collects so darn many different things, one can always fill some blank space by talking about our beloved secretary. For instance, now her hallway features old-time song sheets, mounted edge-to-edge, all over the walls.

One of the songs has lyrics that go something like this... though maybe not exactly:

"Darn body oatmeal's dream, wear a first mate chew;
Ouija eye sore blew; Dresden ging gum two.
It was dare anew thatch a loft me true;
You wore sacks teen, marvel itch queen;
Darn body owed meals dream."

The first two members who recall this oldie will have the rare honor of singing it to us as a duet on Sunday afternoon. Now, aren't you anxious to be there?

THE WOLF: Here is a letter received last month with some dues. It really was!

"Dear Andy: In reply to your request to send a check, I want to tell you that present conditions make it nearly impossible. My shattered financial affairs are due to city laws, state laws, federal laws, liquor laws, mother-in-laws, brother-in-laws, and the outlaws. I am compelled to pay income tax, property tax, business tax, amusement tax, sales tax, utilities tax, school tax, unemployment tax, whiskey tax, meals tax, excise tax, and even carpet "tax". No wonder my poor brains are so taxed!

I am required to get a business license, car license, driver's license, dog license, and not to mention that marriage license. I am expected also to contribute to every charitable activity which the mind of man can think up, including the Green Cross, the Purple Cross, the Southern Cross, and the Double Cross. For my own protection I am obliged to carry life insurance, hospital insurance, liability insurance, fire and burglary insurance, unemployment insurance, old age insurance, and typhoon insurance.

My business is so regimented I keep wondering if I really own it. I am inspected, suspected, disrespected, rejected and dejected, examined, re-examined, condemned and fined. Simply because I am trying to do things right, I am talked about, lied about, held up, held down, swindled and boycotted until I am almost ruined.

I can tell you honestly, Andy, that except for a miracle which happened yesterday I couldn't even send this dollar check. The wolf that keeps coming to so many doors these days just had pups in my outer office. I sold them and here is your money!

Sincerely... "

LAST CALL: Our secretary reports that all but a handful of members have now paid their \$1 dues for this year. This small payment is just about enough to cover the cost of printing and mailing the "Token Topics" to everyone six times each year. Certainly you wouldn't dream of missing out on such a great bargain. So please take care of this immediately if you happen to be one of "Elaine's handful". Our annual roster will be compiled very soon, and we would hate to have YOU unlisted.

DON'T FORGET! It will be Sunday afternoon, March 21st, at the Willahan plantation.

TOKEN TOPICS

of the
CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION of TOKEN COLLECTORS

April, 1971
Issue #29

ROBERT RITTERBAND
Editor

Fellow Members: This month everything is NEW..... NEW..... and NEW!

NEW #1: Even though it is only April, here is your new issue of "Token Topics" already. It doesn't mean that we have advanced the printing date for our usual bi-monthly news letter, or that we are rushing to give you the details now on our May meeting. Instead your Executive Board has decided to try putting out a new bulletin every month for a while, instead of every other month.

The thought behind this move is that copies in the even-numbered months will give a prompt account of the meeting just past, plus any new token news as it happens. The bulletins for odd-numbered months will continue to feature details on the next meeting, and even newer news of our members and their activities. (We think that we can keep this plan going; if not we'll very quietly return to the old schedule.)

Well, then-- Our March session at Elaine Willahan's home was another big success, with the following 20 members on hand: Roland Atwood, John Barnes, Bob Carter, Andy Crusen, Bill Gallagher, Les Hawthorne, Bob Kubach, Jim Manning, Bob Marvin, Edrick Miller, Bob Ritterband, Art Smith, Claire Smith, Gordon Smith, Ken Smith, George Ticknor, Jim Wassel, Ray Weamer, Ace Wischstadt, and Elaine Willahan. Also present were Jamie Wassel, Pat Miller and Char Wischstadt.

At the meeting's end, a surprise feature was the serving of a decorated birthday cake to honor two members, Roland Atwood and Gordon Smith, who celebrated a 75th and a 77th year that week. So maybe these gentlemen are not in the "new" category, but they are indeed a couple of great guys!

NEW #2: Have a good look at the masthead on this bulletin, and you will see our new club name in print for the first time. In the 34 ballots cast, 26 of the members (76%) favored shortening our title by dropping the word "Transportation". With many of our bunch going in heavily for "Good fors", and some wanting only wooden nickels, and so on, the new name will be far more indicative of our club's wide interests. Several alternate names were suggested by members, but none drew significant support. On the subject of a possible coin camera purchase for member's use, the vote was 30 yeas to 4 nays for the Executive Board to dig deeper into the matter now. More news on this as it develops. By the way, it was agreed that present membership cards would continue to be acceptable until the end of this year.

NEW #3: In the list above, Weamer and Wischstadt are among our newest members. (If you didn't meet them yet, you'll be pleased when you do have the chance.) Also welcomed into club membership by mail and phone were no less than six other collectors, making a total of ten newcomers since the first of the year.

In our last bulletin, we wondered aloud who new member #101 might be. Now we know, along with a string of others. We are happy to present:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| #101 Maurice Gould, Sepulveda CA | (He is the well-known coins writer and speaker). |
| #102 Sol Halpern, Hollywood CA | #105 Henry Krause, San Diego CA |
| #103 Charles Kappen, San Jose CA | #106 Paul Thompson, San Gabriel CA |
| #104 Ace Wischstadt, Chula Vista CA | #107 Charles Mueller, Chicago ILL |

You will find a new list of this year's paid-up members on the other side of this issue. In the near future we plan to have a full-scale roster published, which will give details on just who among us collects what. It is nearly five years since the club worked up such an outline, so you can realize the need now. The cooperation of every member is needed to make this project a success. Please take a few moments right away to notify Secretary Elaine of your specialties and wants. Everyone will want the list to be prompt and complete; with YOUR help we can make it!

MEMBERSHIP LIST - April 1, 1971

- 81 ALLIS, Joseph 157-42 25th Ave. Whitestone L.I. N.Y. 11357
- 96 ALTVATER, Ernie 2325 Pattiglen La Verne, Calif. 91750
- 1 ATWOOD, Roland C. 2818 Colorado Ave. Santa Monica, Calif. 90404
- 45 BABBITZ, Harley B. 745 Cornish Dr. San Diego, Calif. 92107
- 64 BARNES, John M. Box 25031 Los Angeles, Calif. 90025
- 84 BARNETT, Floyd O. 5425 Portland Ave. So. Minneapolis, Minn. 55417
- 57 BAVAIRD, Harold G. P.O. Box 6127 Bay Osos, Calif. 93401
- 68 BEATTIE, William 3210 Belvedere Dr. Riverside, Calif. 92504
- 23 BLACK, Corinne 1409 Evans Ave. McKeesport, Pa. 15132
- 40 CARTER, Robert B. 2232 North Kays Ave. So. San Gabriel, Calif. 91770
- 93 CHRISTIANSEN, Chriss Box 651 Cupertino, Calif. 95014
- 46 CRUSEN, Andrew 2717 South Hill St. Los Angeles, Calif. 90007
- 3 CUTLER, Edward M. 11603 Ruthelen Ave. Los Angeles, Calif. 90047
- 67 DUKE, Donald Box 8136 San Marino, Calif. 91108
- 49 FEISEL, Duane H. Box 11661 Palo Alto, Calif. 94306
- 95 FINNEGAN, Katherine M. 147 East 5th Ave. Roselle, N.J. 07203
- 16 FREIBERG, Ralph 634 Ashbury St. San Francisco, Calif. 94117
- 20 FRISBEE, R. K. 211 King St. Denver, Colo. 80219
- 19 GALLAGHER, William C. 4125 Madrona Road Riverside, Calif. 92504
- 58 GLAZE, Fred E. 622 East Fourth St. Ontario, Calif. 91762
- 43 GOULD, George F. Box 1432 Everett, Wash. 98201
- 101 GOULD, Maurice Box 2407 Sepulveda, Calif. 91343
- 102 HALPERN, Sol 1236 1/2 North Orange Dr. Hollywood, Calif. 90038
- 99 HARENCAME, Lois M. 15308 Dittmar Dr. Whittier, Calif. 90603
- 65 HAWTHORNE, Les 904 East Acacia St. Glendale, Calif. 91205
- 91 HINDE, Ralph A. 225-30 106th Ave. Jamaica, N.Y. 11429
- 52 HOUSE, Amos F. Box 202 La Verne, Calif. 91750
- 103 KAPPEN, Charles V. 2201 Peachtree Lane San Jose, Calif. 95128
- 105 KRAUSE, Henry 3511 6th Ave. Apt. 4C San Diego, Calif. 92103
- 47 KUBACH, Robert 4675 Eagle Rock Blvd. Apt. 4 Los Angeles, Calif. 90041
- 98 LIPSHIE, Steve 12934 Burbank Blvd. #1 Van Nuys, Calif. 91401
- 80 MC CLUNG, Ed Box 2507 North Hollywood, Calif. 91602
- 61 MANNING, James J. Jr. 3740 Greenbrier Rd. Long Beach, Calif. 90808
- 41 MARVIN, Robert 923 West Broadway Anaheim, Calif. 92805
- 107 MUELLER, Charles 3039 South Drake Ave. Chicago, Ill. 60623
- 2 MILLER, Edrick 3257 Idaho Lane Costa Mesa, Calif. 92626
- 4 NICOLOSI, John G. 3002 Galindo St. Oakland, Calif. 94601
- 97 NICHOLLS, Harry K. Box 166 Ehrenberg, Ariz. 85334
- 83 RIGGS, Clancy W. 1703 N.E. 101 Ave. Portland, Ore. 97220
- 5 RITTERBAND, Robert 6576 Colgate Ave. Los Angeles, Calif. 90048
- 9 ROHRER, Bernard J. 68 West 51 St. Long Beach, Calif. 90805
- 35 ROSELINSKY, Frank 6934 Bevis Ave. Van Nuys, Calif. 91405
- 85 ROSELINSKY, Larry 6934 Bevis Ave. Van Nuys, Calif. 91405
- 51 SAFFORD, Dwight A. 4043 42 St. San Diego, Calif. 92105
- 54 SHERMAN, Norman E. 4295 Marina Dr. Santa Barbara, Calif. 93105
- 22 SHUPE, W. D. 1071 Cassingham Road Columbus, Ohio 43209
- 72 SMITH, Arthur Box 2631 Santa Rosa, Calif. 95405
- 73 SMITH, Claire 6 Bahia Lane Mission View West Oceanside, Calif. 92054
- 71 SMITH, Edward W. Box 2631 Santa Rosa, Calif. 95405
- 6 SMITH, F. Gordon 6 Bahia Lane Mission View West Oceanside, Calif. 92054
- 82 SMITH, Irene Box 2631 Santa Rosa, Calif. 95405
- 70 SMITH, Jack R. R.R. 1, Box 91-B New Palestine, Ind. 46163
- 18 SMITH, Kenneth E. 328 Ave F Redondo Beach, Calif. 90277
- 34 SNYDER, Franklin P. 2418 S. Baldwin Ave. Arcadia, Calif. 91006
- 7 SUPER, Michael 4 So. Woodington Rd. Apt. H 10 Baltimore, Md. 21229
- 69 TARGONSKY, Paul 23 Harrison St. Meriden, Conn. 06450
- 106 THOMPSON, Paul 5406 N. La Presa San Gabriel, Calif. 91776
- 12 TICKNOR, George 1939 1/4 Beloit Ave. Los Angeles, Calif. 90025
- 74 VELDMAN, Robert H. 470 North St. Oakland, Calif. 94609
- 87 WASSEL, Jim 12612 Danbrook Dr. Whittier, Calif. 90602
- 100 WEAMER, Raymond E. 3570 Ocean View Ave. Los Angeles, Calif. 90066
- 42 WILLAHAN, Elaine J. 516 West 99 St. Los Angeles, Calif. 90044
- 104 WISCHSTADT, Ace 752 Elder Ave. Chula Vista, Calif. 92010

TOKEN TOPICS

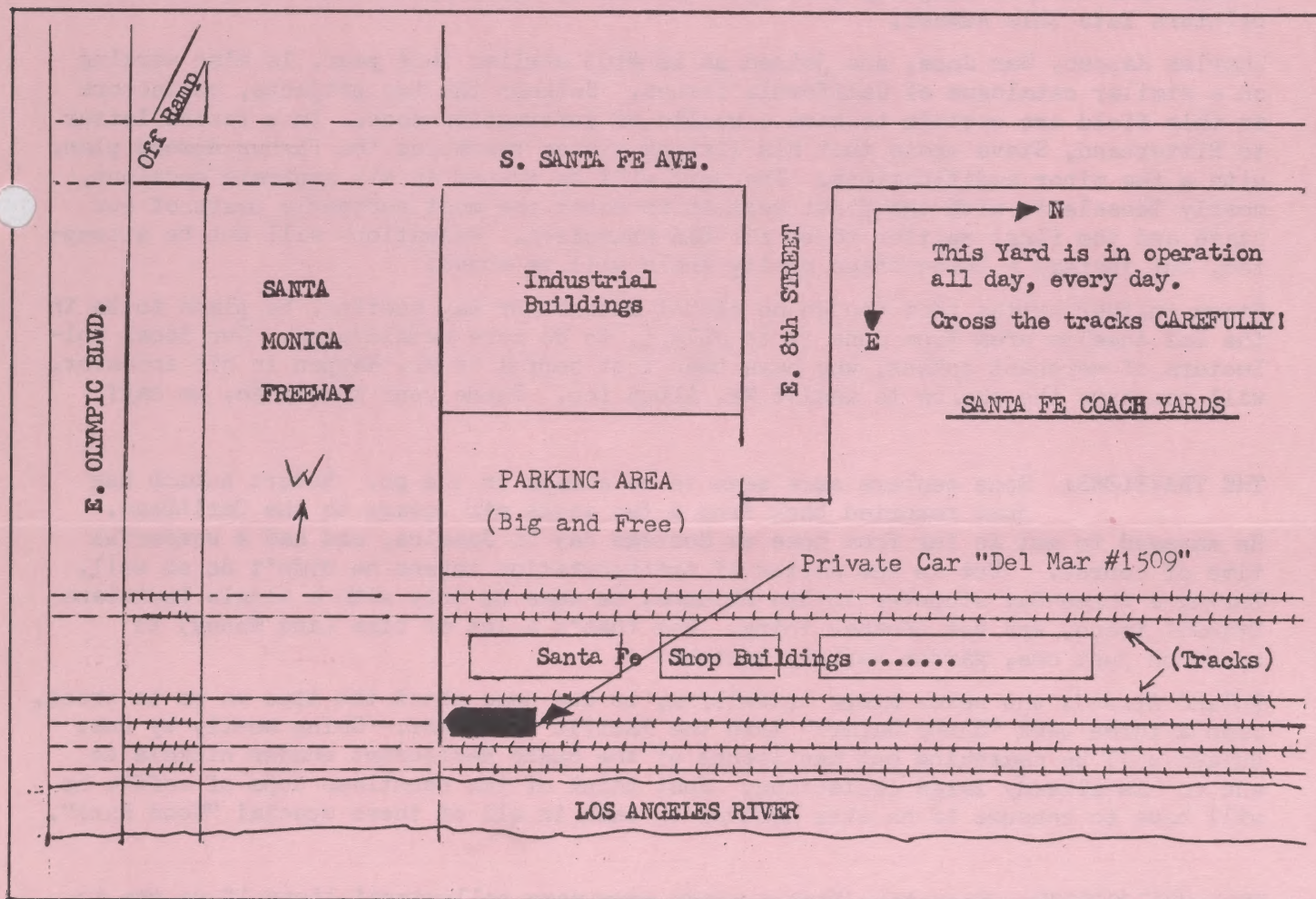
of the
CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION of TOKEN COLLECTORS

May, 1971
Issue #30

ROBERT RITTERBAND
Editor

BE THERE! Transportation may no longer be part of our club name, but it's still a mighty interesting subject to most members. To recognize that fact, this month's meeting will once again be staged aboard a private railroad car, located right in the midst of the busy Santa Fe coach yards, Los Angeles. It will be the fourth time the CATC has gathered in this unique spot, though not since May 1968. Santa Fe's former Del Mar Lounge #1509 is being loaned us for the afternoon, thru the courtesy of Richard Ritterband. It won't be spotted on some siding, but will be right where rail traffic passes all day long. Who could ask for anything more?

If you haven't been to one of these special meetings, the map below will show you that this car is at the extreme east end of Eighth Street, between Santa Fe Avenue and the Los Angeles River. The Santa Monica Freeway passes right overhead, and you will find plenty of free parking as you enter the railroad grounds. On Sunday afternoon, May 16th, we will be looking for you, with plenty of hot coffee, cold drinks and cookies. All you need supply is plenty of tokens for swapping, plus maybe some guests to introduce too. (Sorry, but railroad restrictions prohibit the presence of any children under high school age.) Don't miss out on this fun and excitement!



ARE THEY YOURS? After our March meeting at Elaine Willahan's home, she found a pair of men's sun glasses under the sofa. Elaine reports they are ground to a prescription and probably cost some guy a nice piece of change. If you are the one who let them slip to the floor there, quit your worrying now and get in touch with Elaine soon. They sure don't fit her... or even Andy!

ATWOOD SUPPLEMENT: The first supplement to Atwood's Third Edition has just been issued by the North East Vecturist Assn., with free mailings to all their members. The new compilation was done by our CATC member Jack Smith, who also belongs to NEVA, and it is drawn from "Fare Box" issues between January 1970 and February 1971. The listing totals eleven 8½x11 mimeographed pages, and has been limited to 200 copies. We assume that after all NEVA club members are cared for, any remaining copies will be available to other collectors at a reasonable price.

MORE NEWCOMERS: This club of ours just cannot stop growing. For the month of May, we welcome two more new members, both from out of town. Membership #108 will henceforth be held by Donald Finch, P.O. Box 466, Visalia, Calif. 93277, who was introduced to us by Andy Crusen. We have heard that Finch is possibly California's most active collector of trade tokens, so of course we hope to greet him in person at a club meeting soon. Apparently he had heard of our association before, but did not consider himself eligible until Crusen told him we had dropped the word "Transporation" from our name. See how it goes?

For member #109 we extend greetings to Stephen Album, P.O. Box 4039, Berkeley, Calif. 94704, who was signed in by Ritterband. Several of us recall having met Steve at the 1966 AVA convention in Disneyland, and again at the Oakland convention in 1968. In addition to vectures (and coinage of the Near East) Steve is also deeply interested in California trade checks. Right now he is busy compiling a catalogue on this subject, and hopes to have the primary section ready for his printers late this summer.

Charles Kappen, San Jose, who joined us as #103 earlier this year, is also working on a similar catalogue of California issues. Between the two projects, collectors in this field are certain to have a wealth of information soon. In a recent letter to Ritterband, Steve wrote that his listing system resembles the famous Atwood plan, with a few minor modifications. The work will be issued in six separate sections, mostly looseleaf, with the first section to cover the most northerly parts of our state and the final section to be for San Francisco. Valuations will not be attempted, but instead a three-stage rarity scale will be shown.

Steve further writes that though he cannot attend our May meeting, he plans to be in the Los Angeles area from June 18 to July 1, to do more cataloguing. Our local collectors of merchant tokens, who have been most helpful to Mr. Kappen in his endeavor, will now have the chance to assist Mr. Album too. Share your knowledge, we say!

THE TRAVELERS: Some members sure seem to be always on the go. Robert Kubach has just reported back from a two weeks air voyage to the Caribbean. He managed to get as far from home as Montego Bay in Jamaica, and had a wonderful time of course. But in the matter of transportation tokens he didn't do so well. During a three-day stopover in New Orleans, he came up only with a single Louisiana Transit issue, and not another thing. Now that's a lot of time (and Money) to spend on just one, garden variety vecture!

Roland Atwood, who never stops travelling, is due home about the time we go to press, from a three week "Sambo Safari" into the Pacific Northwest. Going mostly by bus, Roland will be searching out new issues of the Sambo Restaurant wooden nickels to add to his already large collection. Just think of the countless cups of coffee he will have to consume if he ever decides to cash in all of these special "Good Fors".

YOUR COLLECTIONS: Secretary Elaine needs many more collectors' lists if we are to put out that oft-requested report on "who among us collects what?". There has been a reasonable handful of lists so far, she says, but nowhere near enough to do this job right. If you haven't already done so, why not this very day jot down the items you like most to collect, and send it in. Just as with so many things in any club, your officers can only be a means for carrying out the commands and wishes of the members. Command us, please, with your lists; we will then follow through!

TOKEN TOPICS

of the
CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION of TOKEN COLLECTORS

June, 1971
Issue #31

ROBERT RITTERBAND
Editor

IN MAY: The last session of the CATC was held on Sunday afternoon, May 16, aboard a privately owned railroad lounge car, spotted at the Santa Fe coach yards, in Los Angeles. It marked the fourth time in a half-dozen or so years that we were invited to gather in this truly unique meeting place. Because of the recent start of the Government's Amtrak operations, the yards were somewhat quieter than before, yet all enjoyed a pleasant (and profitable?) afternoon. Members on hand included: Roland Atwood, John Barnes, Bob Carter, Andy Crusen, Les Hawthorne, Bob Kubach, Bob Marvin, Edrick Miller, Bob Ritterband, Ken Smith, Paul Thompson, George Ticknor, Jim Wassel, Ray Weamer, and Elaine Willahan. Guests were: Virginia Barnes, Pat Miller, Dee Wassel, Joan Weamer, and Richard Ritterband, co-owner of the private car.

COMING UP: For several years our midsummer meeting has been staged at the home of some out-of-town member. With the long days and usual fine weather, it gives everyone a chance for a little outing in addition to the pleasure of being with fellow vecturists. This year will be no exception, as we return once more to the gracious home and garden of the Edrick Millers in Costa Mesa. If you haven't yet done so, mark your calendar now for Sunday afternoon, July 18th. Full details, plus a map, will be included in the next "Token Topics".

ANOTHER MEMBER: One more new member was added to our roster last month, though it might be a while before he gets to a local meeting. It is a real pleasure to introduce as CATC #110, Nathaniel Mack, P.O. Box 6, Mayport, Fla. 32267. (That's on the Atlantic, near Jacksonville.) In March when we invited Mr. Mack, a career Navy man, to join us he was stationed here at Long Beach. Before he had a chance to visit our bunch in person, he was transferred back to his earlier area, Florida, but signed in with Secretary Elaine by mail. Welcome, sir!

Add also to your '71 club roster the name of Daniel DiMichael, Box 485, Coatesville, Pa. 19320. Not a new member at all, Mr. DiMichael, a past president of the AVA, holds membership #17 in this club. Because of a delay in dues his name was not included in our April listing, but it sure will be now!

FOUNDINGS: Last month we ran a notice about some nice sunglasses found at Elaine's home after the March meeting. (It developed that they belonged to her son.) This time we have two lost items to return to their proper parents. At the end of the May session, we came upon two sports jackets left behind on the private railroad car. Both are nylon, padded, and with zipper fronts. One is blue with a Sears label, and the other is brown with a Campbell's label. Now the forgetful owners won't have to describe them at all; just contact Ritterband and claim them.

PERSONAL NOTE: The next issue of AVA's "Fare Box" will report that in addition to being CATC president, I am now also president-elect of the AVA. Ralph Hinde, who is a CATC member as are the three previous AVA presidents before him, recently announced that he would not accept a nomination for a third term. Elevation from the vice presidential spot is not automatic here. However this time there were no others nominated against me for the top position, making the election unanimous. Be assured that I will do my very best for AVA, and hope to start off right by getting to the Seattle conclave in August. Why don't YOU attend too?

CALIF. TRADE TOKENS: In May we reported on the progress of a new trade check catalog being compiled by member Steve Album, and mentioned that a separate work was also under way by Charles Kappen. Here is more information on the latter volume, as reported in the current issue of the TAMS Journal.

You will recall that Kappen is a member of our club too, and is co-author of the well known Hibbler-Kappen book on So-Called Dollars. His cataloguing endeavor of California trade tokens has been going since 1962 and is now nearing completion. He estimates that already he has described close to 20,000 items, representing 110 different collections. Still he realizes that more issues are being located all the time, and so he has asked for help from any CATC members who feel they might have something in this field yet unlisted. A brief description of your pieces can be checked quickly against his master file, and he will then contact you further if more detailed info is needed. Mr. Kappen, incidentally, is soon to retire from a professorship in the San Jose State College department of Journalism and Advertising. Any profits from the publication by TAMS of his new book will accrue entirely to that national collectors' society.

FARE BOXES: After our good member Robert Smith passed away last September, his token holdings were acquired by Edrick Miller. Among the surplus items were a still-unwrapped looseleaf edition of the 1970 Atwood's Catalogue, and an eleven-year file of the AVA "Fare Box". The Catalogue is being offered now, without binder, for \$5, which is half the retail price. The "Fare Boxes" represent a complete run from January 1958 through December 1968, except for a single missing issue of Jan. 1960. They are housed in six 1" ring binders, and would represent a real treasure to any of our newer collectors. Get in touch quickly with Ed; these goodies won't last.

THE INVENTOR: Don't ever believe that our fellow collectors are just a bunch of visionary, impractical folks. One member (who shall remain nameless here) is actually quite an inventor. For several years he has been working on an inexpensive auto to be smog-free, from using electrical power instead of gasoline. Last week he phoned your editor, very excitedly. "At last I did it!", he exclaimed. "Drove all the way from Los Angeles to Las Vegas and back again, on less than five dollars worth of electricity." "Was that your total cost?", we asked. "Well, no," he said. "I had to spend \$4,657 for an extension cord."

ABOUT THOSE LISTS: For several months we have been bringing you Elaine Willahan's request for a list of your collecting specialties. This is so we can once again publish a master index of who among us collects what, to make it easier for everyone's swapping attempts. So far only 22 lists have been turned in, which hardly seems enough to do this job right. If you are at all interested in helping your fellow collectors, or even in only adding to your own collection, please give us these details NOW. Otherwise the Executive Board will have no alternative but to publish whatever information we have gathered so far. Then you'll be sorry if you have missed out!

AND ANOTHER FELLOW, who works in an aerospace plant, insists that the following notice appeared on his office bulletin board a few days ago:

"Group supervisors who have no secretaries of their own are urged to take advantage of the fine girls in our stenographic pool."

ON WHICH JOYOUS NOTE, we now quit bothering you for another month or so..... RMR

TOKEN TOPICS

of the

CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION of TOKEN COLLECTORS

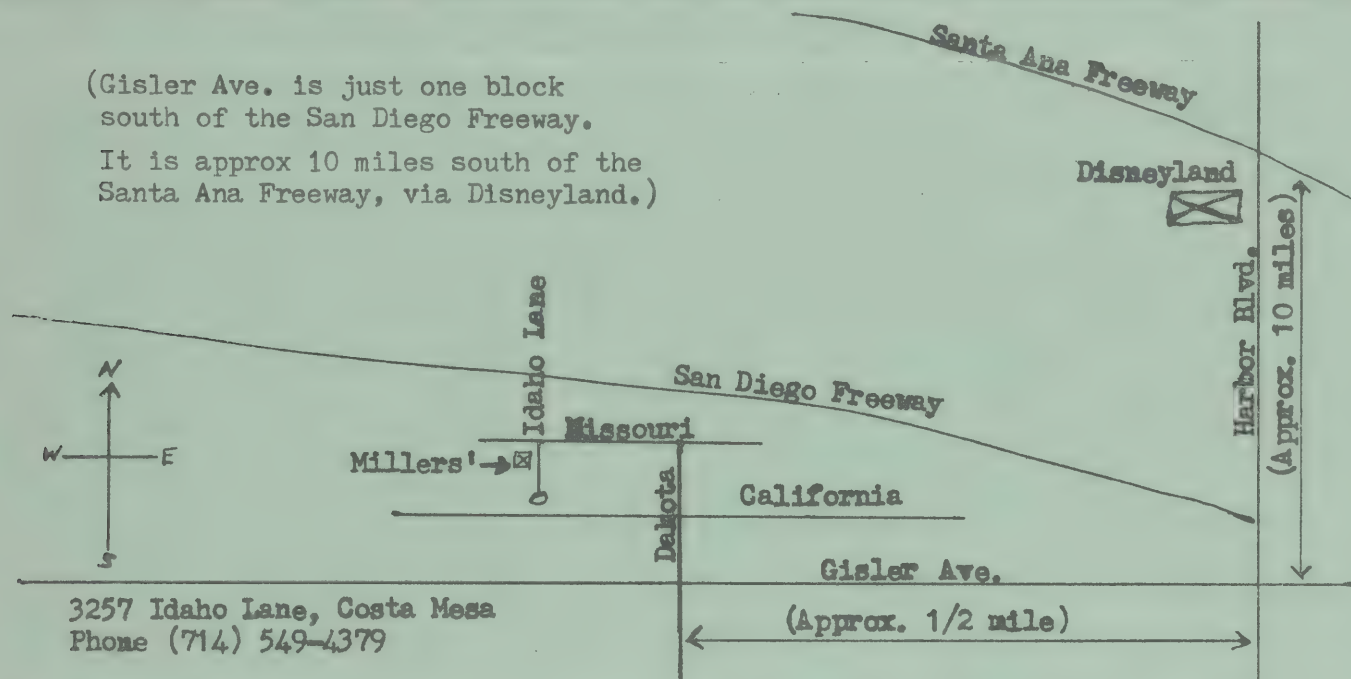
July, 1971
Issue #32

ROBERT RITTERBAND
Editor

SUMMERTIME: Once again this month we go out of town for our midsummer meeting.

The July gathering, on Sunday afternoon the 18th, will be at the home of Edrick Miller, 3257 Idaho Lane, Costa Mesa. Because it has been four years now since we enjoyed the pleasure of a visit there, a freeway map is shown below. If you need a ride to this "faraway place", please notify Secy Elaine or Prez Bob for help. As always, we will be in session from about two until five. Don't miss it!

In September our plan is for a gathering at the Lomita Railroad Museum, with a picnic beforehand at a nearby park. Complete details in our next issue.



SEATTLE: During the past weekend your editor had the chance for a two-hour visit at the L.A. train station with John Coffee, editor of the AVA "Fare Box" and general chairman for next month's annual conclave in Seattle. From the preliminary comments John has given, this event will be a real crackerjack. From Friday afternoon through Sunday morning (August 6-8) the token trading sessions will be practically continuous. Well, there will also be a first-class auction, two business sessions, a Saturday evening banquet, and a Sunday morning harbor cruise, but still we know that vectures will be swapped and sold like crazy. Are you going to miss this great party? We sure hope not! Registrations, by the way, to include all of the above plus a new souvenir token for the boat trip, will cost you just \$13. And if you get your check to Coffee's Tacoma address before July 15, the price is reduced to only \$11.50. We'll see you there, then?

NEW MEMBER: No issue of this bulletin is complete without the listing of one or more newcomers to our organization. This time we welcome D. Paul Foote, 391 E. Grand View Ave., Sierra Madre 91024, as our member #111. Paul, an engineer, joined the AVA last fall, and he collects mostly U.S. and Canadian transportation tokens. You'll have a chance to meet him and his family in person at Seattle, if not sooner.

YET ANOTHER? Several of our people have recently received copies of a bulletin from a new organization to be known as CATS. This acronym, we learn, stands for "California Token Society". Well, the Golden State is a big place, so maybe there is room for one more association. (Or is there?) The new group has decided they would meet twice a year, in conjunction with the Calif. State Numismatic Assn., plus other meetings from time to time as occasions arise. Another decision soon after their formation was to expand the club to include Nevada tokens, but to retain the same name letters.

One of their comments gives us all something to think about. In addition to our own CATC, there also exists the BATS (Bay Area Token Society), and the California Exonumist Society. We think this latter club also ties their meetings to the semi-annual CSNA conventions. So now there are four, and we wish the others well. The big surprise, however, was mention in the new bulletin that "a club for California token collectors is long overdue". And all the while we thought that everyone knew our CATC is now fourteen successful years old, and gathering soon for its 87th regular meeting. There are times when we think NOBODY bothers to read "Token Topics".

MESSAGES: Two members who have not been in a position to attend meetings lately were in touch last month with the secretary and president. The first of these folks was Edward Cutler, a founding member of this club. Eddie sent us, for all of the members to enjoy, a half-dozen excellent color photos of the famed Waxahachie (Texas) mule car ride, which he snapped during last year's AVA conclave. Fitted now with rubber tires, the 1890 vehicle is driven for visitors over some of the old lines. A souvenir token for this ride was a feature of the Dallas meeting.

Sadly, Eddie reports the recent deaths of his sister and sister-in-law, leaving him and his brother with little interest now in hobby activities. We surely hope that before long their days will be a bit brighter, so that we can enjoy their company again at meetings and conventions.

THE OTHER CONTACT has been with Harry Nicholls, our good member at Ehrenberg, Ariz. Harry phoned in to alert collectors with some information on a former Colorado River ferry operation. In the May issue of "The Fare Box" it was reported that the ferry owner also had a mercantile store nearby, and issued trade checks honored both by his store and the river vessel. Harry is now convinced that these were solely trade tokens, and are not valid in a transportation token collection... no matter how high a price is being asked for them. Thanks from all of us for this inside info; act on it to suit yourself.

ALMOST WE FORGOT to report in connection with those color photos above, that Andy Crusen had also made a first-class snap for us. This was a group shot, on the rear platform of the private railroad car used for our May meeting in the Santa Fe coach yards. Just one more reason for you to be at our gathering this month, as these photos will all be on display for your pleasure there.

B & W AGAIN: Certainly you will recall the write-ups in our January and March issues about the B & W Bus Lines in southern L.A. and Watts. Their life is no bed of roses, it seems. On the first of this month, a story in the "L.A. Times" said that the black-owned firm had temporarily lost its operating certificate. Apparently the company's liability insurance had expired on June 11 without being renewed, so the Calif. Public Utilities Commission put them under suspension. Some of the buses were still being operated after that, causing the commission to direct that insurance steps be taken at once or the certificate would be cancelled outright. Now that would be too bad for all concerned!

TOKEN TOPICS

Aug./Sept. 1971
Issue #33

of the
CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION of TOKEN COLLECTORS

ROBERT RITTERBAND
Editor

SEPTEMBER MEETING: Next month our club will again stage a "picnic in the park", an endeavor which always results in a fine turnout of members, wives and children. This time we will meet on Sunday afternoon, September 12, (the second Sunday), from noon until ???, at Torrance Park, on the corner of Cabrillo Avenue and Santa Fe Street in Torrance. (If you are unacquainted with the area, Cabrillo is a half dozen blocks west of Western Avenue, and Santa Fe is a block north of Sepulveda.) Park your car along Santa Fe and walk in the Gramercy Avenue entrance, where we will be saving a batch of picnic tables for all. This is a large, shady park--- we know YOU will enjoy being there.

Our reason for selecting this particular site is because it's just two miles in a direct line from the popular Lomita Railroad Museum, which so many of our folks report not having visited yet. The museum building is a replica of a New England train station, and inside there is a huge wealth of railroad and transportation items for your pleasure. Of course there is also the Southern Pacific's 1902 Baldwin Mogul locomotive for your kids to clamber over, and a veteran caboose acquired from Union Pacific. A 50c admission charge covers all the sights, and the museum is open from 10:00 in the morning until 5:00 in the afternoon. This way, each family can decide for themselves whether to visit Lomita before or after picnicking. In any event, don't miss this great double-feature meeting, and don't forget to bring along plenty of duplicates for a full scale, out of doors, token swapping session.

IN JULY: Our previous meeting, at Edrick Miller's home in Costa Mesa, was again a real winner. Club members on hand that Sunday afternoon were: Roland Atwood, Andrew Crusen, Amos House, Robert Kubach, Steve Lipsie, James Manning, Edrick Miller, Robert Ritterband, Claire and Gordon Smith, Paul Thompson, George Ticknor, Elaine Willahan and Robert Wolf. A special guest, visiting our sunny(?) shores from far away New York City, was Foster Pollack, who is very active among the Northeast Vecturists. It was a great gathering for token enthusiasm and good fellowship, under the warm spread of hospitality always found at the Millers.

Just a week after our own meeting, this writer saw about six fellow members, during the morning alone, at a quarterly session of the California Exonumists. There in Pasadena we exchanged greetings with Finch, Hawthorne, Manning, Marvin, McClung and Thompson. But we still enjoy our own club gatherings best.

NEW ONES: Don't think for one minute that we are lacking in new members to report. At our July meeting it was a pleasure to greet in person our #112, Robert Wolf, 9442 Castlegate Drive, Huntington Beach 92646. Before long we also had the chance to welcome Syd Joseph, 870 S. Hudson Street, Denver, Colorado 80222, as #113. There is no regional vecturist group that grows as steadily as the CATC!

A FINE BOOK: Our good member, Maurice Gould, known to vecturists, medallists and coin collectors all over the nation thru his newspaper columns and personal appearances, has just published a new book on Israel coinage, co-authored with his wife Jean. This is a very attractive paperback volume, with descriptive matter on each lefthand page and many excellent illustrations on the righthand pages. Though your editor is not a collector in this field, just the pictures themselves make fine "reading matter". Don't overlook "The Story of Israel in Coins".

FIRST TIME: Is this the first time you ever received a copy of "Token Topics"? If so, you are part of a very wide audience for this one issue only. It all came about when the local editor learned from the Fare Box editor that there wouldn't be another issue of the latter bulletin until late in September. (That date of "August 20" mentioned in the Fare Box for July was an error, by the way.) "So how would it be", we asked, "if this time we printed enough copies of Token Topics to send to Vecturists everywhere?" "Great!", said he. "Then everyone can have some convention news promptly, and I won't have to curtail my annual home vacation". Here you are... and we Californians hope all of you enjoy reading of our doings in the Golden State.

SEATTLE CONVENTION:

Since our last CATC meeting, the annual convention of the American Vecturist Association has been held, this year in Seattle. Your reporter was on hand, and found it to be a very pleasant, worthwhile gathering. According to my count, there were 38 A.V.A. members registered, plus a reasonable number of other collectors and family guests.

Ten of the members there are also on our own roster. From Southern California these included Paul Foote, William Gallagher, Robert Kubach, and Robert Ritterband. The out-of-town CATC members attending were Joseph Allis of New York, Duane Feisel of Palo Alto, Ralph Freiberg of San Francisco, George Gould of Everett, Syd Joseph of Denver, and John Nicolosi of Oakland.

During the business ceremonies, it was my honor to be installed as A.V.A. president for 1971-72, with John Coffee, faithful Fare Box editor, making the pronouncement. My elevation to this position leaves the vice presidency vacant, since no qualified nominations were made before the official deadline. The job will now be filled by our Executive Board, as provided by A.V.A. by-laws. So far at least 25 good names have been suggested, making the selection not a bit simple.

In the mail balloting for curator, Duane Feisel was re-elected for a second year, with Syd Joseph as runner-up. Feisel received 215 of the 334 votes cast, for a 64% showing. The possibility of the curator office becoming appointive was discussed at length, as mentioned later in this report.

In new convention business, the delegates voted unanimously for a dues increase, to offset recent postage boosts. Effective the first of the coming year, annual dues will be \$5.50 per member. However under terms of the resolution, any person paying his dues between January first and the March first deadline each year, need submit only \$5.00, thus allowing a 10% discount for promptness.

Two by-law amendments were also unanimously approved by the convention. In the first, all officer terms would be for two years instead of the present single year, but with both the president and vice president not eligible to succeed themselves in the same office. A change in the term of office has been brought up before several times, but without this limitation on the two top positions. Because a two-year term makes very good sense for organizations such as ours and because under the new plan there couldn't be any problem of one person staying on and on, it is considered likely that this time the change will be ratified by the membership. It would become effective with the 1973 elections.

Under the other amendment, the position of curator would become appointive by each new president, as our editor's job has always been. (A second part of the proposal is that no member shall hold more than one position on the Executive Board at a time.) The intent here is to avoid the frequent handing over from one person to another of our many valuable assets and archives, with much loss of time and sometimes even an actual loss of property. By the new method a capable, dependable member will be selected after consultation with the Executive Board, to care for our belongings a number of years at a time, instead of the annual popularity contest method we have been operating under.

Full details on both these by-law changes will appear soon in the Fare Box, with a three-fourths affirmative vote required for adoption. My strong endorsement goes to each of you in favor of these two changes.

As always, an important feature of the conclave was a sightseeing tour, for which a special souvenir transportation token was issued. The year the trip was a boat cruise on Sunday morning, covering the Elliott Bay section of Puget Sound, and with an attendance of about 70. The new token is of white metal, 26-mm, with a picture of a small passenger steamer on the reverse. Subscribers to the New Issues Service will receive their tokens automatically. Nicolosi reports there will also be plenty of copies on hand for any other collectors who wish to purchase same.

Next year the convention will be held in Chicago, with Joel Reznick serving as its chairman. For 1973 an invitation letter from our own club was read, asking that Southern California be the locale again, for the first time since '66. Such an event might be staged in San Diego, or possibly related to the Queen Mary site in Long Beach. Verbally the delegates from Denver also put in a bid for '73. If an official letter from the group there should be received, the final decision would again depend on the A.V.A. Executive Board. In any event we will hope to see you among those present each time.

TOKEN TOPICS

November 1971
Issue #34

of the
CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION of TOKEN COLLECTORS

ROBERT RITTERBAND
Editor

NOVEMBER MEETING: Our last club session for this year will be on Sunday afternoon, November 21, from 2:00 to 5:00, at the home of Robert Ritterband. The address is 6576 Colgate Avenue, Los Angeles, and the phone is 938-4504. This is in the Wilshire district, not far from La Cienega Boulevard and Third Street. Meets have been held here often enough so you can probably remember the driving details. If not, give him or Elaine a call for quick instructions. As always there will be great chances for token trading, plus the sharing of fellow collectors' company and experiences. We will have a brief talk session to plan various new ideas for the new year. YOUR suggestions will be important, so please be with us!

ANNUAL PICNIC: In September the club once again staged a most pleasant meeting in a public park, this year in Torrance near the Lomita Railroad Museum. Members on hand were: Crusen, Gallagher, Kubach, Lipshie, Miller, Ritterband, K/Smith, Thompson, Wassel, Willahan, and enough wives and kids to make a total turnout of 18. The weather was good, the food was good, and the fellowship was good. Almost all in the party took time to visit the popular Railroad display, either before or after our session. All who had not seen it earlier were gratified to find such a detailed and worthwhile collection in this charming, small-town setting.

By the way, better make note now in your "Futures" book that our first meeting of the new year will be at Elaine Willahan's home on Sunday afternoon, January 16th.

ATWOOD: Although Vecturist #1, Roland Atwood, was unable to attend our picnic this time, members can count on seeing him more often from here on. Roland has completed his scheduled eye surgery, and is making fine progress after a long spell of staying inside. Your editor has the chance to visit with this grand gentleman every three or four weeks, and is happy to report he will soon be in full swing again.

A GIFT: Edward Cutler, one of the four collectors who founded this club back in 1957, recently moved from Los Angeles to a smaller home in Orange County. At the same time he decided to dispose of his token catalogues and other printed matter (but not the token collection itself). Ritterband was asked to help move this material and to put the proceeds from any sales into club funds. It is surely a generous gesture on Eddie's part; we are trying to carry out his plans.

Included in the array are the following Atwoods: a 1952 (Mimeographed, looseleaf), three 1958 copies (one bound, one annotated looseleaf, and one mint looseleaf), a bound 1963, a Smith's Foreign (bound), and a Feisel's Parking (bound). There are fourteen years of "Fare Boxes", from 1956 thru 1969, and an unused 1966 album/catalog for collectors of Marian Stamps. Five different Red Book "Guide for U.S. Coins" are on hand, being the 10th, 11th, 12th, 16th and 20th editions, plus a large batch of local LAMTA bus transfers (mint), dated in the late 1950's.

There is even more material beyond this, all of which will be displayed at our meeting this month. CATC members will have first selection on these items, in exchange for a suitable contribution in each case to our treasury. Anything remaining afterwards will be listed for sale in "The Fare Box" on the same basis. Now is your big chance, and just one more reason not to miss the coming meeting.

MEMBER CHOSEN: The next issue of the AVA "Fare Box" will report that one of our CATC members was recently named vice-president of the national organization. After a number of weeks of detailed study, Syd Joseph (Denver, Colorado), was selected by their executive board to fill the officer vacancy. Syd was runner-up in the last AVA curator election, and is well known in numerous token groups. Incidentally, his selection means that now a total of five out of seven national officers are also good members of the CATC.

COMING YEARS: Speaking of Colorado brings to mind that our CATC officers decided recently to withdraw the AVA convention invite put out earlier for 1973, and to support Denver's bid for that year instead. An alternate invitation is now in the works to bring the national meeting here again in 1975, possibly at Long Beach in connection with the "Queen Mary" or maybe even in San Diego. Chief reason for our switch was that the last AVA meet here in 1966 at Disneyland was three years more recent than the Coloradans latest occasion for hosting this event.

In a new procedure, Ritterband as AVA president announced a program to work out the conventions tentatively up to five years in advance. Too often before now the selection has been made on a year-to-year basis, not allowing sufficient time for the host club to work its best plans for these gatherings. The tentative scheduling is also important to many members in planning their future vacations.

A bid from NEVA in New York City already puts that club on record for the 1976 meet. As it now stands, the conclave next year is set for Chicago in August, with the following year at Denver. At this writing 1974 is still open, but with Los Angeles and New York as "early bird" bidders for the two sessions to follow. So now you know!

DID YOU GET ONE? When a Southern Californian talks about "Akron" he generally does not mean a city in Ohio. Instead he would be referring to a local chain of some 18 retail stores that feature imported and other unusual merchandise. Late last month the chain has lightning success with a couple of off-beat items that should have interested every vecturist. First they bought 1000 old fare boxes from the Rapid Transit District and sold them -- at \$16.99 each -- within one day! Quickly thereafter it was an offering of 500 double-head parking meters, acquired from an undisclosed city in Oregon, that sold out almost as rapidly at \$19.99 apiece.

Certainly either of these items would be just the thing for your living room decor ... if your wife doesn't come at you with an axe! We're sorry if you missed the first time, but keep watching their weekly ads. When Akron finds something that sells as fast as these two, you just know they'll be scouting the country for more to offer.

ORANGE EMPIRE: In the spring it will be five years since our club inaugurated transportation tokens (Calif. 640-A) at the Orange Empire Trolley Museum in Perris. A total of 500 pieces were struck, with 200 going to the New Issues Service and our inaugural party, and the remaining 300 being placed on sale at the Museum. Several collectors have advised us recently that Orange Empire has no more left for sale, so the issue should now be considered obsolete. We understand that some of our local members put away extra copies. If you care to help out newer members now, please let us hear from you soon on this.

PERSONALS: Joseph Allis, our good New York member, is a great believer in personal tokens. We happen to know that within only the last few months he has commissioned three different styles to be made, in addition to at least a dozen other varieties he issued in the past. In a recent letter to the club, Joseph asks that this bulletin mention his eagerness to give out these friendly keepsakes to other interested collectors. Just send an SAE to 157-42 25th Avenue, Whitestone, NY 11357; his response will be prompt and satisfying.